

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 L-03 OPR-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

ABF-01 FS-01 /060 W

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R 120927Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6226

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0652

E.O. 11652: N/-

TAGS: AFSP, PINT, ECON, LA

SUBJECT: NEW COMPENSATION SCHEDULE OF LAO GOVERNMENT

REF: A) VIENTIANE 174 (220826Z JAN 76), B) VIENTIANE A-06

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR) WILL PUT A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE COMPENSATION SCHEDULE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND THE MILITARY INTO EFFECT THIS MONTH. AS THE QUOTE NEW KIP UNQUOTE HAS YET TO BE INTRODUCED, ALL OF THE FIGURES FOR SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES IN REPAIR SHOULD BE MULTIPLIED BY EIGHT, TO REFLECT THEIR LEVEL IN EXISTING KIP.

2. THOUGH THE COMPENSATION PLAN IS EXTREMELY COMPLEX WITH NO LESS THAN NINETEEN SPECIAL ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS, THE NEW PLAN WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF MORE THAN DOUBLING THE AVERAGE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE'S CASH TAKE-HOME PAY. IN ADDITION, LAO CIVIL SERVANTS AND MILITARY ARE ABLE TO PURCHASE SCARCE COMMODITIES SUCH AS RICE AND MEAT AT DISCOUNT RATES IN GOVERNMENT STORES, FURTHER

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ENHANCING THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING.

3. EMBASSY HAS ALREADY RECEIVED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES FROM LOCAL EMPLOYEES CONCERNING WHAT STEPS EMBASSY WOULD TAKE TO INCREASE THEIR SALARIES. WE HAD PLANNED TO DO A SPOT CHECK SURVEY IN APRIL OR MAY IN ANY CASE. WE WILL NOW HAVE TO ACCELERATE THIS TIMETABLE. UNTIL THE NEW PLAN IS OFFICIALLY PROMULGATED, WE CANNOT COME TO ANY DEFINITE CONCLUSION, BUT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO PLAN FOR FSL SALARY INCREASES OF AS MUCH AS 20-25 PERCENT.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE COMMUNICATED AS AVAILABLE.
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Message Attributes

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